

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1884

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, XF, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND THE PLO

REF: TOKYO 1702

DEPT PLS PASS TO MINIMIZE POSTS AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS
JIDDA AND KUWAIT AS APPROPRIATE

SUMMARY: FONOFF PERMISSION FOR PLO TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT
OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN TOKYO "A LONG WAY OFF" EVEN IF REQUEST
MADE. SOME GESTURE TOWARD PLO, MOST PROBABLY SEMI-OFFICIAL
AUSPEICES, IS LIKELY SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MIDEAST BUREAU DEPDRIGEN MURATA
AND FIRST MIDEAST DIV DIR WATANABE FOR REGULAR PERIODIC
DISCUSSION OF MIDEAST ISSUES FEBRUARY 13. BOTH EXPRESSED
DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF CRUCIAL NATURE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND
STRONG HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BASIS
FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. AS FARA AS REALATIONSHIP WITH PLO CONCERNED, MURATA
EXPLAINED THAT PRSSURE INCREASIN FOR SOME SORT OF GOJ
GESTURE TOWARD PALESTINIANS. PRESSURE CMES FROM ARABS
THEMSELVES, WHO SEEM TO BE EXPECTING THE IINITITATIVE TO
COME FROM JAPAN AND IS COMPOUNDED BY MIKI'S NEED TO
MAINTAIN SELF IMAGE AS "MR. ARAB. ISSUE HAS BECOME
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FASHIIONABLE AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES IN DIET. LACK OF

OPPOSITION IN LDP TO GOJ RELATONSHIP WITH PLO (WHICH MAKES PLO QUESTION ALMOST UNIQUE AMONG FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES IN JPANAL ADDS TO PRESSURE ON MIKI ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE A "PREEMPTIVE" MOVEE THAT WLL UNDERCUT OPPOSITION AND SOOTH ARABS. SOME BREATHING SPACE MAY BE PROVIDED BY KISSINER TRIP ENABLING FONOFF TO ARGUE THAT OUTCOME OF SECRETARY'S MISSION SHOULD BE CLEARER BEFORE DECISION MADE ON PRECISE FORM OF GOJ GESTURE. MEANWHILE, WATNABE SAID, FONOFF STUDYING HARD VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES.

3. MURATA EXPLAINED THAT FONOFF DISTINGUISHES CLEARLY BETWEEN TREATMENT ACCORDED A VISITING DELEGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENET OFFICE WITH OFFICIAL STATUS. NOTING THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE HAD PRIVATE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE SAID GOJ PERMISSION FOR THHE PLO TO SET UP A PERMANNNT AND OFFICIAL PRESENCE IS "A LONG WAY OFF". FONOFF IS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERING WAY OF ARRANGING FOR A LEGITIMATE PRIVATE JAPANESE ORGANIZATION WITH TIES TO THE GOVERNMENT TO INVITE A PLO DELEGATION FOR A VISIT DURIING WHICH MEMBERS OF GROUP WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO MEET SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ARABS HAVE DISCOVERD THAT EXTREAME RIGHT WING GROUP KIKUSIKAI WHICH INVITED ANWAR ABDER RAHMAN, HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE IN JAPAN AND HAVE DECIDED TO CANCEL THAT VISIT.

4. MURATA AND WATNABE BOTH EXPRESSED WISH THHAT WASHINGTON UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES FONOFF UNDER AND MOTIIVATIONS BEHIND ACTION THAT GOJ, BY FACT THAT MIKI "THINKS HE UNDERSTANDS" MIDDLE EAST, THOUGH HIS GRASP IS INCOMPLETE. FONOFF HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED FOR EXAMPLE BY MIKI STATEMENT THAT PLO "VIRTUALLY" REPRESENTS PALESTINIANS (REFTEL). MUCH OF LLST WEEK HAS BEEN SPENT IN ISSING CLARIFICATIONS TO JORDANIANS AND OTHERS EITHER UPSET OR ELATED BY REMARK.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT FONOFF APPROACH WILL PREVAIL OVER PRIME MNISTER'S ENTHUSIASMS. FONOFF'S CURRENT THHINKING ON APPROACH TO PLO, WHICH BEARS SME RESEMBLANCE TO GOJ TREATMENT OF PRG, MAY BE OVERTAAKEN BY WHAT MURATA DESCRIBES, ONLY HALF IN JEST, AS A "MIKI CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOCK". FONOFF SEEMS ANXIOUS IN ANY CASE TO SOFTEN IMPACT OF FUTURE GOJ MOVES BY KEEPING USG INFORMED OF ITS THINKING.
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